

I can read the law, but perhaps you at the FCC need a refresher. If you look at No. #, it will be clear that what Sinclair Media is doing by forcing stations to air the Kerry smear piece two weeks before the election is illegal. In addition, no matter how you look at provision three, the law is clear that the broadcaster must "operate in the public interest." Sinclair has no intention of being fair and even-handed. I urge to keep this horrendous act firmly in mind when they show up for their license renewal. They are behaving totally irresponsibly and do not deserve to have their licenses renewed.

§ 315. Candidates for public office

Release date: 2003-08-01

(a) Equal opportunities requirement; censorship prohibition; allowance of station use; news appearances exception; public interest; public issues discussion opportunities

If any licensee shall permit any person who is a legally qualified candidate for any public office to use a broadcasting station, he shall afford equal opportunities to all other such candidates for that office in the use of such broadcasting station: Provided, That such licensee shall have no power of censorship over the material broadcast under the provisions of this section. No obligation is imposed under this subsection upon any licensee to allow the use of its station by any such candidate. Appearance by a legally qualified candidate on any-

- (1) bona fide newscast,
- (2) bona fide news interview,
- (3) bona fide news documentary (if the appearance of the candidate is incidental to the presentation of the subject or subjects covered by the news documentary), or
- (4) on-the-spot coverage of bona fide news events (including but not limited to political conventions and activities incidental thereto),

shall not be deemed to be use of a broadcasting station within the meaning of this subsection. Nothing in the foregoing sentence shall be construed as relieving broadcasters, in connection with the presentation of newscasts, news interviews, news documentaries, and on-the-spot coverage of news events, from the obligation imposed upon them under this chapter to operate in the public interest and to afford reasonable opportunity for the discussion of conflicting views on issues of public importance.